a polarisation rotating means for, in use, rotating each polarisation component signal by a predetermined amount, and wherein the device is arranged in a manner such that, in use, the two rotated polarisation component signals are being combined by way of the birefringent material for providing the predetermined polarisation rotated optical signal.

7. (Once amended) A method for producing a predetermined polarisation rotations of an optical signal, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) splitting the optical signal into two orthogonal polarisation component signals utilising a birefringent element consisting of a single birefringent material;

(b) rotating each polarisation component signal by nominally predetermined polarisation rotation utilising a polarisation rotation means; and

(c) combining the two rotated polarisation component signals utilising the birefringent material.

13. (Once amended) An optical telecommunications system including an optical device for producing a polarisation rotation of an optical signal transmitted by said system, the device comprising:

a birefringent element consisting of a single birefringent material for, in use, splitting the optical signal into two orthogonal polarisation component signals;

a polarisation rotating means for, in use, rotating each polarisation component signal by a predetermined amount, and wherein the device is arranged in a manner such that, in use, the two rotated polarisation component signals are being combined by way of the birefringent material for providing the predetermined polarisation rotated optical signal.

Please cancel claim 6 without prejudice.

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in the current application. The Examiner has rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §112 ¶1, and has rejected claims 1-5 and 7-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Applicants have canceled claim 6 and have amended claims 1, 7, and 13. These amendments